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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/659,212

09/09/2003

Michael A. Kotson

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01/11/2006

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EXAMINER

DINH, TUAN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,212

Applicant(s)

KOTSON ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan T. Dinh

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/09/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II 9claims 11-20) in the reply filed on 11/01/05 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 11, lines 8-9, it is unclear. The phrase of "a plurality of controllers on said substrate for said receivers" is not understood. What does applicant means of "...controller...for said receivers" what is a relationship between "the controllers and receivers" because there are no physical/electrical term connection between them.

By applying art, the examiner assumes the phrase would be read - - a plurality of controllers on said substrate - -.

Appropriate correction is required.

Note: the term "configured to", which is defined as "adapted to or capable of being", is not a positive claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richter et al. (U.S. Patent 5,905,885) in view of Hall, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 6,346,842).

As to claims 11, 20, Richter et al. discloses a configurable board (101) as shown in figures 1A-1C, comprising:

a substrate (a body of the board 101); a plurality electrical device receivers (114, 115, 118, 119) on said substrate,

at least some receivers configured to receive a selectable one multiple different electrical devices having different respective interfaces (trace or circuitries form on/in the board 101) with said receivers;

a plurality of controllers (104, 146) on substrate, and

an electrically conductive interconnection network (jumper wires 110, 112, 113) on said substrate interconnecting said controllers (104, 146) with receivers (114, 115, 118, 119).

Richter et al. does not specific disclose said network (the jumper) comprising sets of zero ohm resistor terminals that enable the receivers be connected controllers.

Hall, Jr. et al. teaches a variable delay path circuit as shown in figures 1-2 comprising a network comprising zero ohm resistors (17, 18) that being connected between a driver (1) and a receiver (2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a teaching of Hall employed in the circuit board of Richter et al. in order to optimize operation at varying frequencies and reduce cost for circuit board manufacturing.

As to claims 12-14, Hall shows the terminals (9, 10) at least some sets separated by open circuits, see figure 1B.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a teaching of Hall employed in the circuit board of Richter et al. in order to control the operation of the varying frequencies applied on the circuit board.

As to claims 15-17, Richter and Hall do not specific discloses the receivers comprising respective arrays of pin receptacles.

However, the components mounted on the circuit board of Richter would be well known comprising pins or leads or terminals connected on the circuit board for electrical signal communications therebetween.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a receiver having pins as taught by Richter and Hall in order to provide signals for communication.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 18-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Singer and Woltz et al. disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

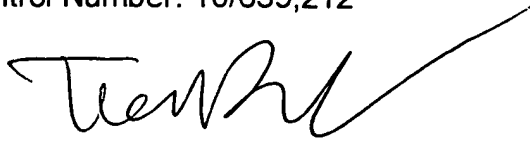
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan Dinh', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tuan Dinh
January 02, 2006.